From: Jason Whittington
To: Microsoft ATR,w7md@arrl.net@inetgw
Date: 1/23/02 2:53pm
Subject: RE: Microsoft Settlement

Actually I don't think it's fair to blame MS for the prevalence of
WinModem style devices; rather it's shrewd marketing on the part of the
device manufacturers. Said manufacturers have figured out that using
the CPU as a sort of DSP lets them offload parts off their boards and
make them cheaper. Nobody notices until they try to play quake online
and all of the sudden their computer can't hack it :) I haven't priced
modems in years but it used to be that winmodems were less than half the
price of real modems, which is the only thing that explains your
popularity (Intel was able to sell the 486SX for basically the same
reason).

The manufacturers then don't bother to release drivers for other OS's
because they see it as a waste of time - windows drivers allow them to
cover 80-90% of the market with just two drivers (one for the 16-bit
platforms, one for the NT family). The target audience of the Winmodem
is bubba who buys his computer at Wal-mart, not sophisticated buyers.

My current complaint about Windows is the retarded way it handles TCP
connections. Let one patch cable slip out for 1 second and the stupid
OS drops all your net connections. Never mind that TCP/IP was
specifically designed to handle transient net failures. Stupid...

Jason

CC: tfug-list@tfug.org@inetgw